

Wilmington & Western Rail Road Co.

Receiver's Office.

Wilmington, Del., Aug 3 1876

My Dear Dr. Gray I have your letter and the plants, (three beautiful) of which please accept sincere thanks. *Lobelia paludosa* I never could find in Delaware though I have hunted much for it. It may get torn up, or could Nuttall have got *L. laevis* and taken it for *L. paludosa*? Hardly likely though.

I have written to Engelmann about the proposed trips and hope he will join us, but think his best place to meet us is at Phila or Washington if he comes East to go immediately on this journey. Redfield wrote me about your plan of going via Harper's Ferry, but upon consideration and examination I think it will hardly work out right, on acc of the Shenandoah Valley R.R. not being finished to Staunton, leaving a gap of 26 miles, staging between Harri-
sburg & Staunton. I give (over) the schedule, which will show the difference in the routes.

Via Harper Ferry

Via Gordonsville Charlottesville.

Leave	Wash. (B + O, P.M.)	8.10 A.M.	(B + Potomac RR)	8.07 A.M.
Arrive H. Ferry		10.20 "	arr. Charlottesville	2.12 P.M.
Leave "		10.35 "	leave do	2.15 P.M.
Arrive Harrisonburg		4.00 P.M.	arrive White Sul. Sp.	10.00 P.M.
(H. Ferry to Harrisonburg 20 miles, in 5 1/2 hours)				

Thence to Staunton 26 miles, by stage; stay
one night there, and leave next morning at
\$7.05 - A.M. reaching N.S. Sp. 11 A.M.

You see the Harper's Ferry route would take much
longer and be much more fatiguing.

Now after getting to the N.S. Springs there would
be no trouble in getting across to the Red Sulphur
Sp. or more directly by way of Salt Pond Mt. (*Parnassia*
asarifolia, *Saxifraga leucanthemifolia*, &c.; and a splendid
view ^{from Mt. top} easily accessible,) to New River White Sulph. Sp.
(10 miles from the Mt.) where I first saw *Pachystima*,
or if better to take short journeys; - from Red S. Sp. to
N.R. N.S. Sp. whence it is easy to make an excu-
sion to the St. Pond Mt. From N.R. N.S. Sp. it is
a long and rough ride to ^{C. Tenn.} P.R. or perhaps there is
water communication by way of New River. I have
written to various parties to know about routes, dis-
tances, &c. Of course I suppose you are aware
that the roads in the Mts. are apt to be very rough

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and the inns, except a few at county towns, and at the Springs, are miserably poor and dirty. I imagine the easiest way to travel would be to hire a conveyance for the time we need and then go independently of the stages, ^{stop when, when and as long as we like} but that we can determine on the spot.

As to time of starting, which of course depends a little on what we consider the starting point, we might arrange to spend Sunday the 20th at the W.S. Springs which would necessitate leaving Washington via Gordonsville Saturday morning the 19th. I think I could manage that, though it is just possible I may have to go for one people now at Appledun who leave there the 17th. Still I can work it even then. But if the start be made the next week day on the 21st why can not you and Mrs. Gray spend Sunday with us? Mrs. Canby and I will be delighted to have you, and will try to insure you a quiet Sunday in spite of the children. As to hard work I don't care to

do much of that, or rather to add too much
to the necessary hard travelling (in that region)
by working hard at collecting. Still I shall
take some paper, &c. along.

How will you get Mrs. Gray from Va. to
the N.C. warm Springs? By the way I find that
a railroad runs from Morris town in the E. Tenn.
R.R. to within a few miles of the Springs; - a stage
ride complete; the journey. On the other side the
N.R. is completed to "Old Fort" a few miles from
Swannanoa Gap.

I don't think of any thing more
to say about the journey now but will keep you
posted as to anything I may hear.

Did Prof. Peirce get any of Dr. Palmer's Pine
Stripes & Plants? If not I propose to send him some
of my duplicates. Please ask Mr. Watson if the
list of those plants was sent to Mr. Ball. If not
I will send the one he furnished me with his
set.

Ever truly Yours, J. M. Hardy

I might just add that as I ought to be back again early in

Sept., as early a start as possible after the middle of the month suits me best - that is of course
if I do not go to Atlantic - it is really unlikely to be necessary.